



## Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs

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# World War II Veterans Receive Medals on 64<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day

*Ceremony at State Veterans Center  
Led by Senior Advisor to Governor Beshear*

(WILMORE, KY June 6, 2008) Thomas Preston was nine years old on the morning of June 6, 1944, and he remembers how emotion shook the voice of his aunt when she woke him with the news: “We’ve invaded Normandy.”

“This is a day of remembrance and a day of deep appreciation,” Preston, a U.S. Army veteran and now Senior Advisor to Governor Steve Beshear, said Friday at Thomson-Hood Veterans Center (THVC). “To the heroes in this room, and elsewhere in this building, it is a distinct honor to be here and to represent the governor.”

To 19 veterans of World War II and the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, Preston helped present medals and certificates the veterans had earned decades ago but never received.

A few of the World War II veterans, now in their 80s, were overwhelmed upon receiving the framed medals, and by the applause from the dozens of friends and family members there to honor them.

Because of a shortage of metal during World War II, many service medals were never made, much less awarded, and other medals were created after the war when most of those who fought were out of the service.

Jim Vannoy, Sergeant Major U.S. Army (ret.), a former THVC employee and current volunteer, made it his mission to find out which medals THVC residents had not received, get the medals authorized and create a special ceremony for presenting them to the veterans.

Friday's ceremony was the 15<sup>th</sup> such event at THVC. Over the past two years, Vannoy has ensured veterans received 604 medals, including three Silver Stars, 22 Bronze Stars, and 15 Purple Hearts, plus 247 Cold War Certificates and 78 attachments like service stars.